LYNX

1977

Cottonwood, paint, sisal, sawdust, glue

37 × 15 × 29 inches
(94 × 38.1 × 73.7 cm)

Signed and dated under legs:
April-11-1977-LYNX F. B. A.

The Jill and Sheldon Bonovitz Collection

LET'S LOOK

What kind of animal is this? What does it remind you of?

What words would you use to describe this sculpture? What do you see that makes you say that?

What textures, patterns, and decorations do you see?

How does Archuleta reveal the lynx's personality in his sculpture?

ABOUT THE SCULPTURE

With his mouth open and eyes wide, *Lynx* seems to let out a fierce roar. His head is cocked slightly, with two large ears perched atop his bright orange, spotted body. His wooden form is accented by spiky teeth, sharp claws, marble eyes, and whiskers made from sisal, a plant whose strong fibers are used to make twine.

Archuleta carefully chose the most appropriately shaped wood for each of his sculptures. For *Lynx*, he used a solid log for the torso, and attached arms, legs, heads, and a tail with nails and glue. To smooth out the joints, the artist covered his sculptures with a mixture of sawdust and glue, which gave them a rough and sandy texture. Once he constructed the body, Archuleta covered his animals with layers of brightly colored paint.

Archuleta drew inspiration for exotic creatures like *Lynx* from the pages of *National Geographic* and other natural history magazines. Instead of cuddly companions, Archuleta's animals are clearly wild and lively creatures, plucked right out of their natural habitats.